



Study Session Agenda MINUTES – May 15, 2017

An executive session was held from 6:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Study Session began at 7:03.

Attendance: Mrs. Ashbaugh, Mr. DiClaudio, Mr. DiPietro, Mr. Hackworth, Mrs. Hurt-Robinson, Dr. Loeffler, Mr. Nehlsen, Mrs. Tompa, Dr. McClure; Dr. DiNinno, Ms. Good, Mr. Muscante (arrival 7:18 pm) Dr. Monroe, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. English, Mr. Zolkowski, Mrs. Plance, Mr. Rizzo, Mr. Spohn, Ms. Hawk, Ms. Harden, Mrs. Wilton, Mr. Krajca, Mrs. Huffman, Mrs. Lorenz, Ms. Ewing, Mr. Richards, Mrs. Mamula, Mr. Tillman, Ms. Hemingray, Mrs. Bertucci, Mr. Zerega, Mrs. LoAlbo, Ms. Collins, Mrs. Aughenbaugh, Mrs. Yingling, Ms. Senge, Ms. Shoop, Mr. Wilton, Ms. Chapano, Ms. Gagetta, Mrs. Lape, Mrs. Galata, unnamed individuals not signing in

Dr. DiNinno provided the board with information pertaining to variables related to the development of the 2017-2018 budget including:

Dr. DiNinno reminded everyone that decisions still need to be made between now and when the budget is passed in June indicating that items could still be added to or deleted from the budget. She then shared information related to the shared priorities of the school district and reminded everyone that we are all part of the same team and are wanting the same thing: academic quality, safe learning environment for kids, opportunities for our kids and being responsible to taxpayers.

Dr. DiNinno then shared Pittsburgh Business Times data and the latest rankings. She showed how a grade gap continues at the middle school despite improvement in the elementary schools and overall improvement throughout the district. She explained that she was proud of the improvements made over the past several years and the gain ranking made by the district but explained that the secondary grade gap still needs to be closed, and it is something the district must address. She then reviewed highlights related to expenses and taxpayers, including cost per student and average taxpayer income. Next, she explained the priorities and realities of creating budgets at Riverview over the past few years emphasizing the uncertainties of funding, obligations to fixed costs such as labor costs and other important supplies.

Dr. DiNinno discussed ways that the board generated revenue over the past few years including delinquent tax collections, refunding bonds, investing in energy savings and preventative maintenance, the start of an Educational Foundation, emphasis on grant writing and the district's current exploration of its own Cyber School programming. She shared how the district rebid the transportation contract, eliminated a Central Office administrator positions, has used attritions, reduced basic building budget levels, uses its own staff to now provide ESL services, realigned staff and has renegotiated several contracts to save additional costs.

Dr. DiNinno then shared information related to school district fund balances indicating that these are similar to an emergency or savings account, should be used for one-time costs, are not available for ongoing annual expenses, have helped the district during state budget impasses, and can impact bond financing rates.

She then requested that as the budget was being shared by Ms. Good this evening, she asked everyone to remember that academics and student needs are extremely important. She asked that all reflect on RSD values and be considerate of taxpayers. She reminded everyone of the increase in labor costs, the Great Grade Gap, and asked everyone to focus on our students and their careers as they prepare for the future. She indicated that this budget will take a group effort and will need everyone's help. She reminded everyone that changes can continue to be made between now and June.

Ms. Good shared a summary of the recommended Proposed Final Budget.

The board then began a discussion related to approving the Proposed Final Budget.

Following the discussion, Mr. DiPietro made a motion to open the public meeting at 8:57 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mrs. Ashbaugh, Mr. DiClaudio, Mr. DiPietro, Mr. Hackworth, Mrs. Hurt-Robinson, Dr. Loeffler, Mr. Nehlsen, Mrs. Tompa, Dr. McClure

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion on the Proposed Budget continued and the public was invited to comment.

Several members of the public commented on the budget and provided input.

After the motion was presented, Mr. Nehlsen introduced the topic of the need for a feasibility study and led a discussion on this topic focusing on the potential benefits. Several board members discussed the need and their concerns regarding costs to conduct such a study.

The board then voted to approve the Proposed Final Budget.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL

Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee (J. Hackworth/J. Nehlsen), Mr. Hackworth moved that the following item be approved-

- Recommend approval and direct the advertisement of the Riverview School District Proposed Final General Fund Budget for the 2017-2018 school year with total expenditures of \$23,152,986 and total revenues of \$22,289,164, which budget includes a .56 mill increase, for a total of 23.0074 mills. The proposed budget will be available for public inspection at the Riverview School District Central Office and will be available on the Riverview School District website at www.rsd.k12.pa.us. A public hearing of the budget will occur on June 5, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Riverview School District High School Library at 100 Hulton Road, Oakmont, Pa. Citizens are invited to attend this hearing to make comments or ask questions about the Proposed Final Budget.

Mrs. Ashbaugh seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Following the approval of the budget, the board continued with a discussion on the pros and cons of a feasibility study. The board then voted to approve that an RFP be created to obtain potential costs for a study.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Nehlsen then moved that the following item be approved-

- Prepare and advertise an RFP for a study that looks at:
 - Long-term Sustainability
 - Population Trends
 - Infrastructure relative to size
 - Value relative to our tax base
 - What to do about it

Mr. DiClaudio seconded the vote which passed on roll call vote with five (5) affirmative votes and three (4) negative votes (Ashbaugh, Hurt-Robinson, Loeffler, Hackworth)

At 9:54, a motion was made by Dr. Loeffler to return to the Study Session.

Committee Reports

- Education Committee – Ms. Ashbaugh shared that many meetings had been held to discuss the budget and potential options regarding programs. She then reviewed the Elementary Wellness plan for the 2017-2018 school year.
 - Mr. DiClaudio shared information and recommended that the board provide approval for a memorial bench, donated by student council, to be placed at the high school.
 - Some discussion related to assessing supplemental positions and needs was held.
- Dr. Loeffler provide an update on Forbes and Legislation
- Eastern Area Schools

The following items were reviewed as potential motions for board approval or consideration at the May 22nd Regular Voting Meeting:

- Graduation Candidate approval – currently 75 potential candidates
- Business Office
 - Forbes Budget
 - Auditorium sound System – need to reject bids since time limit ran out
 - Ms. Good explained that more information pertaining to a waste disposal contract would be shared this week. The board will be asked to approve an ACSHC board trustee and agree to an extended school year service agreement with the Children’s Institute for a special needs child.
- Board Policies:
 - Second Reading – (209.2) Diabetes; (246) Wellness; (609) Investment of District Funds
- Personnel
 - Additions to substitute list
 - Establish Hourly Wages for Substitute Secretaries in June
 - Approve extended school year and targeted assistance staff

Mr. Rizzo provided an update on the status of the new Student Information System's implementation including training, data roll overs and schedules.

Mr. Hewitt shared upcoming Junior Senior High School events with the board.

Mr. Zolkowski discussed Tenth Street Field Day and thanked the 110 parents for assisting.

Mrs. Plance shared highlights of May Field Trips and indicated a special awards day will take place on the last day of school.

The Study Session adjourned at 10:45.

An executive session was held from 10:50 to 11:15 to discuss personnel matters.